

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 07292 141815Z

62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01

EA-11 DRC-01 /204 W

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R 141735Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6158

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, US, EC

SUBJ: DECEMBER 12 EC ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE DISCUSSION
OF THE GATT TRADE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY. THE DECEMBER 12 MEETING OF THE ARTICLE 113
COMMITTEE WAS UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON AN EC
POSITION TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE
GATT TRADE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE. EIGHT MEMBER STATES
WERE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH A COMMISSION PROPOSAL
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 07292 141815Z

INVOLVING A UNILATERAL STATEMENT IN THE TNC BY THE EC

ABOUT THE COMPETENCE OF THE 3(E) SUBGROUP (ON AGRICULTURE) AND A MULTILATERALLY AGREED ASSIGNMENT OF ANALYTICAL TASKS TO TNC SUBGROUPS FOR THE PREPARATORY PERIOD. FRANCE (COLLIN) HAD NO FORMAL POSITION, BUT WAS GENERALLY NEGATIVE ABOUT THE COMMISSION'S APPROACH. THE SUBJECT IS SCHEDULED FOR FURTHER ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ON DECEMBER 21. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAVE RECEIVED ACCOUNTS OF THE DECEMBER 12 ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE MEETING FROM A NUMBER OF EC COMMISSION AND PERM DEL SOURCES. THE COMMISSION HAD PROPOSED IN THE MEETING THAT THE EC MAKE A STATEMENT ON AGRICULTURE IN THE TNC, INDICATING INTER ALIA THAT AGRICULTURAL MATTERS BE CONSIDERED PRIMARILY IN ONE TNC SUBGROUP. (THE ASSUMPTION WAS THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD NOT BE CONTRADICTED BY OTHER COUNTRIES.) IN ADDITION, THE COMMISSION PROPOSED THAT THE EC SUPPORT AN ASSIGNMENT OF PRELIMINARY ANALYTICAL ACTIVITIES TO VARIOUS TEMPORARY SUB-COMMITTEES KEYED TO THE TOPICS IN PARAGRAPH THREE OF THE TOKYO DECLARATION.

3. ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM OUR SOURCES, EIGHT OF THE MEMBER STATES WERE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE FOREGOING APPROACH ALTHOUGH SOME SUGGESTED "RELATIVELY MINOR" CHANGES IN THE TEXTS SUBMITTED BY THE COMMISSION. THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE, COLLIN, PLEADED THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS, BUT INDICATED THAT FRANCE WAS VERY DUBIOUS THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD BE USEFUL. HE ARGUED THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD GET FULL SATISFACTION ON THE PRINCIPLE OF THE HANDLING OF AGRICULTURE BEFORE AGREEMENT TO FURTHER WORK IN THE TNC. (THE FRENCH THESIS IS THAT ALL AGRICULTURAL MATTERS BE CONSIDERED IN ONE GROUP AND ONE GROUP ONLY.) COLLIN WAS UNABLE, HOWEVER, TO MAKE ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS OR DRAFTING AMENDMENTS DURING THE MEETING.

4. OUR INFORMANTS STATED THAT SOME OF THE OTHER MEMBER STATES GOT "TESTY" WITH THE FRENCH, ARGUING THAT THEIR INTRANSIGENCE WAS BLOCKING AGREEMENT IN GATT ON MUCH NEEDED WORK PROGRAMS AND CAUSING ARGUMENTS OVER FINE POINTS AND NUANCES, RATHER THAN KEEPING GATT'S ATTENTION ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 EC BRU 07292 141815Z

MAIN ISSUES.

5. THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE ASKED HIJZEN TO CONTINUE HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH US REP (BRUNGART) AND WITH GATT DIRECTOR GENERAL LONG IN AN EFFORT TO FIND THE BASIS FOR FURTHER COMPROMISE. THE COMMITTEE SCHEDULED ANOTHER MEETING ON DECEMBER 21 TO SEE IF FURTHER PROGRESS COULD BE MADE.

6. SEVERAL OF OUR SOURCES STATE THAT THERE IS DIVISION IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON THIS SUBJECT. SOAMES' CHEF DE CABINET, HANNAY, TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE THAT SOAMES WILL BE SPEAKING WITH BERNARD IN PARIS ON DECEMBER 15 IN AN EFFORT TO BRING THE FRENCH AROUND.

7. OUR SOURCES DIFFER IN THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING A CLEAR COMMUNITY POSITION IN THE DECEMBER 21 MEETING OF THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE. IN A CONVERSATION WITH BRUNGART HIJZEN STATED THAT HE WAS RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC THAT, WITH A FEW CHANGES IN THE WORDS OF THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY UNILATERAL STATEMENT, THE ISSUE COULD BE SETTLED NEXT WEEK. WELLENSTEIN AND HANNAY OF THE COMMISSION AND A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH DELEGATION WERE MUCH LESS OPTIMISTIC THOUGH THEY HELD OUT SOME HOPE. ALL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EFFORTS BEING MADE BY THE US GOVERNMENT TO REACH A MUTUALLY - ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT. HANNAY FELT THAT AMERICAN OBJECTIONS APART, IT WOULD BE QUITE A MISTAKE FOR THE COMMUNITY TO CONCEDE TO THE FRENCH ON THIS ISSUE. GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ECBRU07292
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731225/aaaaasfr.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Aug-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <15-Oct-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DECEMBER 12 EC ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF THE GATT TRADE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
TAGS: ETRN, US, GATT, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005